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State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

Ted Stewart
Executive Director

James W. Carter
Division Director

355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203
801-538-5340
801-359-3940 (Fax)
801-538-5319 (TDD)

7/19

April 14, 1994

FIELD(1)

Re: Pre-Variety Germplasm Certification Standards

Dear **FIELD(2)**:

The Utah Coal Mining Rules require that reclaimed areas be vegetated with a vegetative cover that meets the general requirements in R645-301-353. Among these requirements are the criteria that the vegetation must have the same seasonal characteristics of growth as the original vegetation and be capable of self-regeneration and plant succession.

Many of the species that grow in Utah are genetically diverse and survive in a wide variety of conditions. Although a particular species may grow in a variety of situations, races or ecotypes of that species may be differentially adapted to certain conditions. There are numerous examples where seed from warm areas has been planted in cooler climates than those from which it originated. Plants of the species grow in both locations. The seed from the warm area may germinate and plants may become established, but they may all die during a cold winter. Obviously, these plants would not meet the general requirements because they were not capable of self-regeneration and plant succession.

In the past, seed purchasers have had to rely on the good faith of seed dealers when asking for seed from adapted ecotypes. The Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies has published "Pre-Variety Germplasm Certification Standards" for the certification of germplasms that have not reached varietal status. These standards include "Source Identified," "Selected," and "Tested" seed. By requesting seed from plants that either have known traits or that grow under known conditions, a purchaser can be assured the seeds used to revegetate a site will develop into plants as well-adapted to the environmental conditions as those already growing in the area.

Most seed dealers need some lead time to obtain seed from a specific area. Of course, there would be some additional cost to obtain the seed. However, seed costs are usually minimal compared to other reclamation costs and to the cost of reseeding.



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To further explain the procedures with this certification program, a copy of two pages of the Utah Crop Improvement Association guidelines for certification of wildland-collected seed is enclosed. If you have questions about this program or how to obtain seed, please call our office or Dr. Stan Young with the Utah Crop Improvement Association at 797-2082.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lowell P. Braxton".

Lowell P. Braxton
Associate Director, Mining

pb/mbm

cc: S. Burningham (Utah Dept of Agriculture)
A. Foulger (Utah Seed Council)
S. Young (Utah Crop Improvement Association)

SEED.LET

II. CONTRACTS AND BIDS

A LMA may decide to offer for sale seed from a specific stand or geographic region. These areas must be listed as excluded prior to issuing general collection permits, thus granting exclusive collection rights to the individual(s) holding the contract. Exclusions and restrictions must be clearly stated on the invitation to bid.

LMA responsibilities

1. Estimate potential yield and value of the seed crop.
2. Complete appropriate Environmental Assessments.
3. Prepare invitations to bid, with all pertinent terms, restrictions, and exclusions defined.
4. As conditions permit, conduct on-site spot checks during collection to assure compliance with contract/bid specifications and exclusion of non-authorized collectors. By signing contract/bid sheets during these checks, LMA representatives could provide evidence for seed certification.

III. SEED CERTIFICATION

The Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) has published "Pre-Variety Germplasm Certification Standards" for the certification of germplasms which have not reached varietal status, and "Woody Plants and Forbs Certification Standards" and "Grass Certification Standards" for certification of seed of germplasms which have been released as a variety. These standards apply to either wildland collected or field produced seed, and offer a reliable way for the seed industry to offer seed of races or ecotypes to the buyer with genetic identity maintained along with accurate collection site information.

According to these certification standards, a race or ecotype of a native or naturalized species may be categorized into one of four classes:

- (a) Source Identified (yellow tag) -- Comparisons with other germplasm collections, accessions, or ecotypes of the same species not known.
- (b) Selected (green tag) -- Shows promise of superior and/or identifiable traits as contrasted with other germplasm accessions, ecotypes, or variety/cultivars of the species. Selection criteria and supporting comparative data is required.

- (c) Tested (blue tag) -- Requires progeny testing to prove that traits of interest are heritable in succeeding generations. Testing procedures (number of sites, generations required, etc.) are outlined for each species by certification agencies.
- (d) Variety (Foundation {white tag}, Registered {purple tag}, and Certified {blue tag} generations) -- Applicable to a Tested germplasm which, in the estimation of the developer, has sufficient marketplace potential to warrant release as a variety in compliance with Federal and State seed laws.

A. Seed Certification Agency responsibilities:

1. Develop and print a Certified Seed Site Identification Log sheet for use by seed collectors. These log sheets will be available from seed brokers (dealers and conditioners) and from the SCA and other agencies. This log will serve as a way to organize information such as:
 - a. Collectors name, address, and telephone number
 - b. Permit number, contract number, private land designation, etc.
 - c. Species and common name.
 - d. Location (State, County and elevation). It is strongly recommended additional information such as soil type, aspect, and associated species be given as this information would be extremely useful to the end user.
 - e. Date(s) collected.
 - f. Amount collected.
 - g. Lot designation (must be indicated on bag or container also)
 - h. Signature of collector that the information is correct.
 - i. Signature of seed broker that to his knowledge information is correct.
2. Evaluate completed log sheets, seed broker's records, and related documents in determining certification eligibility of seed lot. Conduct thorough investigations on at least 5% of eligible seed lots, including verification of paperwork and prior and/or retroactive field inspection of collection sites to verify that stands are capable of producing the amount of seed indicated. Evidence of falsified logs or documents may result in loss of certification privileges.
3. Attach an official Source Identified, Selected, Tested, or variety tag with appropriate site and germplasm information to individual bags of eligible seed lots.

Mailing List:

Mr. Ben Grimes
Environmental Coordinator
Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation
P. O. Drawer PMC
Price, Utah 84501

Star Point Mine

Mr. Lee Edmonson
Hidden Valley Coal Company
Properties Division
1801 East University Drive
Phoenix, Arizona 85034

Hidden Valley Mine

Ms. Kathleen G. Welt
Environmental Supervisor
Mountain Coal Company
P. O. Box 591
Somerset, Colorado 81434

Gordon Creek #2, #7 & #8 Mines
Gordon Creek #3 & #6 Mines
C.V. Spur Mine
Huntington #4 Mine

Mr. E. M. Gerick
Western States Minerals
Suite 130
250 South Rock Blvd.
Reno, Nevada 89502

J.B. King Mine

Mr. Val Payne
Sr. Environmental Engineer
PacifiCorp
P. O. Box 1005
Huntington, Utah 84528

Trail Mountain Mine
Des-Bee-Dove Mine
Deer Creek Mine
Cottonwood/Wilberg Mine

Mr. Mike Glasson
Senior Geologist
P. O. Box 902
Price, Utah 84501

Wildcat Loadout
Centennial Project

Mr. Wendell Owen
Co-Op Mining Company
P. O. Box 1245
Huntington, Utah 84528

Trail Canyon Mine
Bear Canyon Mine

Mr. David W. Anderson, P.E.
Intermountain Power Agency
Department of Water and Power
City of Los Angeles, Room 1107
111 North Hope Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Horse Canyon Mine

Mr. Michael Baum, President
U. S. Fuel Company
P. O. Box 887
Price, Utah 84501

Hiawatha Complex

Mr. Ken Payne
Utah Fuel Company
P. O. Box 719
Helper, Utah 84526

Skyline Mine

Mr. Mike Gipson, Mine Manager
White Oak
Scofield Route
Helper, Utah 84526

Belina Complex

Mr. David E. Lung, Secretary-Treasurer
Valley Camp of Utah, Inc.
P. O. Box 900
Oil City, Pennsylvania 16391

Ms. Jean Semborski
Environmental Coordinator
Andalex Resources, Inc.
P. O. Box 902
Price, Utah 84501

Smoky Hollow Mine

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